



2018 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Audrey Martin, freshman journalism major at Boston University, is the first \$15,000 recipient of the competitive Rhode Island PBS Foundation Scholarship.

For more than 50 years, WSBE has been committed to the principle of lifelong learning. That commitment is at the core of everything we do. We educate, inform, enrich, and inspire our viewers of all ages to [WSBE more](#).



AN INTEGRAL PART OF RI'S CULTURAL TAPESTRY

Delivering viewpoints with a local focus, WSBE amplifies voices that might not otherwise be heard.

2018 saw WSBE produce several original programs that extended “beyond the box” to touch the community in meaningful ways. From uniting music fans, family, and first responders over the 15th anniversary of The Station nightclub fire, to the local impact of opioid overdoses, to the ripple effect of impaired driving, we tackled hard issues.

WSBE discovers and shares stories that matter to our community because these stories come from our community.

IN 2018, WSBE PROVIDED THESE KEY SERVICES

WSBE also featured continuing services and content - snapshots of local life that are the bedrock of our value to the community. We shine the *Rhode Island Spotlight* on small organizations achieving big results, provide professional advice from tax planning and preparation experts from the RI Society of CPAs, and engage community groups of children through adults by hosting fun and informative station tours.

WSBE reflects and services the issues and topics our community says are important.

EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES, AFFECTING CHANGE

As both guides and explorers on the journey of lifelong learning, we produce and present content about issues that impact our community.

KEY PRODUCTIONS:

- The Fix: Examining Rhode Island's Opioid Addiction
- The Ripple Effect, about the impact of drunk driving

KEY COLLABORATIONS:

- Blue Cross|Blue Shield RI: opioid addiction
- CVS: tobacco use by teens
- RI Department of Veterans Affairs and Operation Stand Down RI: women veterans
- Tomaquag Museum: local Native American voices

NATIVE AMERICA

At the intersection of Native knowledge and modern scholarship is a new vision of America and its people.

Weaving history and science with living indigenous traditions, NATIVE AMERICA brings to life a land of massive cities connected by social networks spanning two continents, with unique and sophisticated systems of science, art and writing. Made with the active participation of Native-American communities and filmed in some of the most spectacular locations in the hemisphere, NATIVE AMERICA reveals an ancient and still thriving culture whose splendor and ingenuity is only now beginning to be fully understood and appreciated.



Rhode Island PBS partnered with the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, RI, to add local native voices of the Narragansett tribe to the national conversation.

We produced three short form videos about the experiences of Rhode Island's indigenous peoples - [social issues and challenges](#), a [history of the Museum](#) and its archives, and the beauty and art of [wampum](#) - and filmed two interviews with the filmmaker, Rhode Islander Gary Glassman., [here](#) and [here](#).

We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Museum with the Narragansett in September, and hosted a reception, screening, and panel discussion at the University of Rhode Island in October.



RHODE ISLAND WOMEN WARRIORS COMING HOME: FINDING WHAT WORKS

Wife and mother. Soldier and veteran.
How can these descriptions apply to the same person?

Today, women are in combat. When they return, service women experience unique challenges their male counterparts do not. Each story is as unique as the woman herself, yet there are common themes that unite her story with those of other returning warriors, men and women: emotional, mental, and physical support around housing, education, employment, health care, and legal issues.



Rhode Island PBS partnered with RIServes, Operation Stand Down RI, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to explore the personal experiences of RI women veterans, as well as the successes emerging from statewide coordination by RIServes of dozens of independent organizations, working together to overcome fractured access and siloed delivery of programs and services to veterans.

Rhode Island PBS produced three short form videos profiling the stories of women veterans, [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). The videos were screened and discussed at Rhode Island PBS studios. We also produced a [half-hour documentary](#), adding stories of two more women veterans. The stories of the five women are available online. Associated Press Journalist Jennifer McDermott moderated the discussion with panelists:

- Judith Berger, LICSW, Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator, Providence VA Medical Center
- Micaela Black, MEd, CRC, LMHC, VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator
- Michael Jolin, Strategic Planning, Communications & Policy Administrator, RI Veterans Affairs
- Dee DeQuattro Rothermel, Director of Development and Legal Services, Operation Stand Down RI



IS NARRAGANSETT BAY TOO CLEAN?



Fishermen complain that bureaucrats have over-treated Narragansett Bay and damaged their livelihood. Scientists say the Bay is healthier than it has been in decades. Who's right?

Both. Neither. It depends.

Narragansett Bay is an estuary with more than 400 miles of coastline. This semi-enclosed body of water has free connection with the open sea, and within it, drainage from land and fresh water streams and rivers dilutes sea water. Plankton, microscopic aquatic creatures at the bottom of

the food chain, thrive in the Bay's highly productive ecosystem and nourish increasingly complex organisms living in the Bay, such as clams, quahogs, crabs, lobsters, snails, shrimps, and sponges. Vast numbers of fish species migrate in and out of the Bay according to seasonal patterns. Still, fishermen report a steep decline in fish and marine life.

With the improvements in treating wastewater and controlling storm runoff, some are asking a question that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago about what is arguably Rhode Island's most valuable natural resource: is Narragansett Bay too clean?

On Friday, July 13, host Mario Hilario asked that very question of fishermen who have spent their lives at sea, and the scholars who represent alternative views.

In this edition of the Rhode Island PBS Community Conversations series, *Is Narragansett Bay Too Clean?* six panelists debated points raised in an article written by freelance environmental writer **Todd McLeish** for *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine.



Al Eagles has been lobstering since he was ten. He built his own boat forty-five years ago and it is the same one he uses today. **Lanny Dellinger** is also a lobster fisherman. He started quahogging in high school in the 1970s and started lobstering in Rhode Island Sound in the 1990s.

Candace Oviatt is an oceanography professor at the University of Rhode Island and the first woman to earn a doctorate degree from URI's School of Oceanography. She has been studying the inner workings of the Bay for more than 50 years. **Tom Uva** is the director of Planning, Policy, and Regulation at the Narragansett Bay Commission, the state's wastewater collection and treatment facility. The sixth panelist was **Jonathan Stone**, the executive director of Save the Bay.

After broadcast, the program was uploaded to the station's website and [can be viewed here](#).



MODERN FARMING IN RHODE ISLAND: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



Presented by:
Rhode Island  RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION

A production of:
 Rhode Island PBS

Community Conversations
 Modern Farming in Rhode Island

MARIO HILARIO
NBC10

JAMIE COELHO
Associate Editor
Rhode Island Monthly

KEN AYARS
Chief of Agriculture
RI DEM

MIKE HALLOCK
CEO
RI Mushroom Company

SARAH TURKUS
Young Farmer Network
Southeastern NE

KATIE STEERE
Owner of
Deep Roots Farm

Friday, December 21
8:00 p.m.

Farming is on the rise in Rhode Island. Since 2002, the state has seen a 42 percent increase in the number of farms. Today, 1,240 farms call Rhode Island home. The state is second in the nation for direct retail sales to the public through farmers markets, farm stores, restaurants, and institutions.

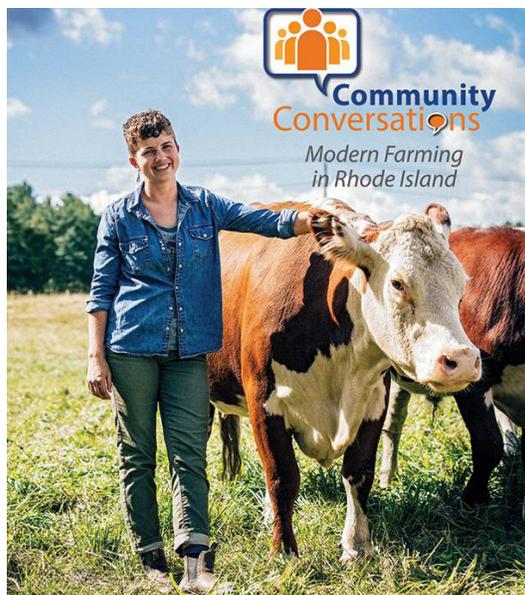
The RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is doing its part to keep farms in the state, too, working

with local organizations and offering grants and programs that link existing farmland with new farmers who may not be able to buy it. But there is more work to be done.

Modern Farming in Rhode Island: A Community Conversation explored the issues and opportunities faced by today’s local farmers. The panel discussion, produced by Rhode Island PBS, and made possible in part by the Rhode Island Foundation, included:

- Jamie Coelho, associate editor, *Rhode Island Monthly*
- Ken Ayars, chief of the Division of Agriculture, RI DEM
- Mike Hallock, CEO, RI Mushroom Company
- Katie Steere, owner of Deep Roots Farm
- Sarah Turkus, organizer of Young Farmer Network of SE New England and manager at Osamequin Farm

The [full program](#) was uploaded to the station’s website after broadcast.



A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT RIPPLE EFFECTS OF DRUNK DRIVING



The effects of drunk driving extend beyond the arrest or - worse - the crash that results in injury or death.

In *The Ripple Effect: A Community Conversation*, three different panels - from families and friends, to public officials, law enforcement and public safety, emergency responders and medical staff - share their perspectives on the far-reaching impact. Hosted by Gene Valicenti, the program was an extension of a RI Department of Transportation's public information campaign against impaired driving.

Guests on *The Ripple Effect: A Community Conversation's* three panels presented personal stories and emotional testimony:

- **Peter Alviti**, director of the RI Dept of Transportation and promoter of The Ripple Effect, an extension of #BeyondTheCrash, examining the enormity of drunk driving crashes and the number lives touched by one incident.
- **Lee Bourque and Gary Bourque**, who lost their son Ryan in May 2016 to a wrong way drunk driver.
- **Ed Mello**, chief of the Jamestown Police Department where Ryan Bourque served as an officer.
- **Meg and John DeCubellis**, who lost their 13-year-old daughter Katie in October 1999, when a drunk driver struck the car in which she was a passenger.
- **Rebecca "Becky" Bowman-White**, who was injured in the crash that killed her mother, Marsha Bowman, and her best friend, Katie DeCubellis.
- **Cathy Andreozzi**, the mother of drunk driving accident victim, Tori, left disabled since struck in 2003 when she was 12 years old.
- **Reverend Joseph A. Escobar**, whose brother died in a drunk driving crash in 1994 at age 31 after he lost control of his vehicle.
- **Dr. Charles Adams**, Rhode Island Hospital's chief of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care.
- **Dr. Jason Hack**, director of the division of medical toxicology at Brown University, and a RI Hospital ER physician.
- **Captain David Palumbo** of the Providence Fire Dept Rescue 5.
- **Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott**, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Since broadcast, the film has been [available online here](#).



OUR TOWN: BRISTOL

OUR TOWN: JOHNSTON



Our Town is a Rhode Island PBS community project started in 2014 based on the successful series pioneered at WPSU a decade ago.

With the slogan, “Your voice, your vision,” Rhode Island PBS launched the project to encourage residents of Rhode Island’s 31 towns to become storytellers and filmmakers, to share the charm and character of their towns and villages. In addition, project goals of *Our Town* are also to build community among residents and businesses, and to connect Rhode Island PBS to the community in a meaningful way.

After the first documentary, *Our Town: Gloucester* premiered in December 2014, two towns were chosen for 2015, North Kingstown (premiered in September 2015) and Portsmouth (premiered in December 2015); two towns in 2016, West Warwick in September, and Westerly in December; Smithfield in September 2017; and Bristol and Johnston in 2018. From meetings with town officials, business owners, and residents of Bristol and then Johnston, a core group of storytellers emerged in each town, and they selected the topics and arranged filming. Rhode Island PBS provided technical and moral support throughout, and edited the story segments together into a one-hour documentary.

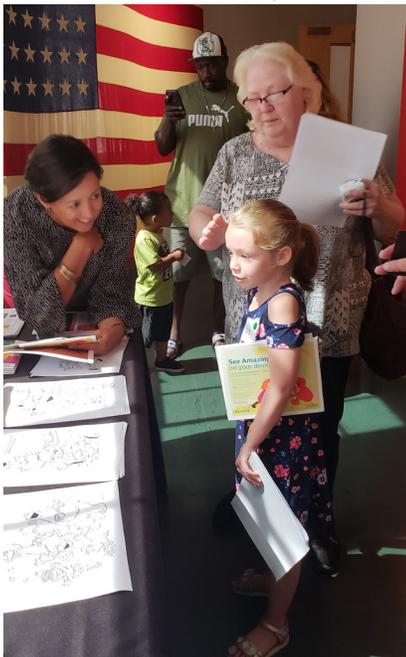
The residents and friends involved in the production were invited to the studio to watch the films in private advance screenings, and were invited to be in the studio to talk about their project experiences and volunteer to answer phones during the fund raising premieres. The entire series, including the latest *Our Town: Bristol* and *Our Town: Johnston* is available on YouTube.



A SPECIAL VISITOR TO THE MUSEUM OF WORK AND CULTURE

On Labor Day 2018, families to the Museum of Work and Culture welcomed a special guest. Julia, the Sesame Street character that portrays a four-year old autistic youngster, and appeared as part of an expanded program of the Museum’s SensAbilities Saturday. An all ability program, SensAbilities Saturday is available once a month for families seeking a low sensory, less crowded environment in which to enjoy the Museum. Trained staff and volunteers are on hand to provide supplementary tools and offer tours to visiting families who have children with special needs.

Walkaround Julia’s participation in this Labor Day event for a second consecutive year supported the Museum’s focus on servicing members of the community on the autism spectrum. For the Labor Day event, the Museum worked with their own trained volunteers, as well as staff from the Autism Project and the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research & Treatment (RI-CART) to create an inclusive atmosphere for the event participants. These experienced volunteers ensured the comfort of all visitors. Walkaround Julia’s visit was one of only a few character appearances authorized by Sesame Workshop and was the second for Rhode Island PBS.



LETTERS, E-MAIL, AND PHONE MESSAGES FROM OUR VIEWERS

Jan. 16, 2018

I am a long time supporter of Rhode Island PBS and regard your programming as essential to my life.

Sincerely yours,
Joy S. of Wakefield, RI

It may sound strange, but what we tend to appreciate about WSBE are the small things, also the interstitials between things, your much more civilizing station breaks, which include things like 'RI Spotlight' and other very short films of that nature. Whether because of a smaller budget or different sensibility, WSBE and your Learn channel are hewing to a different drummer. Thanks for that... Yours is a true oasis in the wasteland that is most of American broadcast TV. Thank you.

Roger M.
February 8, 2018

We do enjoy what you have on Tuesday nights. We have recently begun watching "Midsommer Murders" and find it intriguing. Thank you so much for all you do for us very senior citizens.

John B.

May 1, 2018

With four PBS stations from which to choose, you win!

Many thanks,
Elizabeth C.
Lexington, MA

I love your short videos, town stories, public interest stories and Doc Martin!

Theresa L.
Windham, CT

June 23

I was born in Norwich, England, and I miss England so much. Watching 'Last of the Summer Wine' brings me "home" for 112 hour each week. Thank you so much for your generosity. It brightens my life so much.

Wy M.
Halifax, MA